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## **REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024**

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**SUBJECT**     **Union of British Columbia Municipalities Grant for Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training 2024 - Motion of Support**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Protective Services Division applied for a Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) Equipment and Training grant, funded by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). UBCM requires that all grant applications be accompanied by a motion of support from the local government.

### **BACKGROUND**

CRD Protective Services Division regularly applies for UBCM CEPF grants as they become available. These grants allow Protective Services to undertake additional emergency preparation and training activities beyond what would be possible within the approved budget.

The Protective Services team is looking to build on the CRD's robust radio communications network with the addition of two hand-held radio units for the Juan de Fuca (JdF) Electoral Area and one new hand-held unit for the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) Electoral Area. These portable hand-held radios will enhance radio communication between the EOC and first responders operating in the area. As well, Protective Services proposes to partner with the CRD IT team and the CRD radio room operators to develop three fully portable and independent amateur radio kits. These kits would augment radio communications between the CRD's EOCs, partner agency EOCs in the region, and EOCs across the province if CRD headquarter facilities are unavailable.

As outlined in the application form for the 2024 intake, the CRD is seeking to increase its emergency operations capacity through the development of core EOC training for CRD staff, our First Nations partners, and the local authorities of southern Vancouver Island. Cross-training and exercising with our partner emergency managers not only enhances the resilience of emergency management in the region, it also offers the opportunity to deploy EOC trained personnel resources to other centres that may be experiencing extended EOC activations. The grant request totals \$30,000.

Additionally, the CRD Protective Services team intends to offer enhanced training and exercising, including operational rhythm/process flows, action plan development, role-specific training, and orientation to CRD's enterprise QIT software, to a core team of CRD staff from across all divisions and electoral areas of the organization. This team would make up the CRD's rapid EOC activation team to respond immediately to the full suite of hazards and risks facing the region.

The funding application will also support needed upgrades to mutual aid resources and supports to First Nations, municipalities, and external partners.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:  
That the Capital Regional District Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness for the Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training Grant 2024 and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

### *Alternative 2*

That staff be directed to not submit a grant application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training Grant for 2024.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Intergovernmental Implications*

Increasing the capacity of the CRD Corporate EOC with the development of a strong cohort of EOC trained staff will include the development and enhancement of mutual aid resources and supports to adjacent First Nations, municipalities, and external partners. The portability of emergency radio communications equipment will ensure it can be deployed throughout the region in the event of an emergency or disaster.

### *Financial Implications*

The CEPF grant request is for \$30,000 and would allow the CRD to pursue enhancements to the EOC beyond what would be possible within the current budget.

### *Service Delivery Implications*

Additional capacity funded through this grant would enhance service support capability to the CRD during an emergency or disaster.

### *Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities*

Emergency planning and training activity funded by this grant would enhance the CRD ability to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from an environmental or climate related disaster.

### *Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies*

Capacity generated by this grant is aligned with existing emergency preparedness and strategies.

## **CONCLUSION**

The CRD is required to maintain an effective emergency management program compliant with provincial legislation. The service enhancements that will be gained through the UBCM CEPF EOCs Equipment and Training grant will help ensure that the CRD will continue to meet those regulatory expectations while improving response capability for our citizens and partners.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:  
That the Capital Regional District Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness for the Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training Grant 2024 and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

Submitted by:	Shawn Carby, CD, BHSc, MAL, Senior Manager, Protective Services
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P. Eng., MBA, General Manager, Planning & Protective Services
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: CEPF Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training Grant 2024 Application Form